

THE  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
Lords and Commons,

In Parliament assembled,

Concerning His MAJESTIES  
severall Messages about the  
MILITIA.

Jovis 5. Maii. 1642.

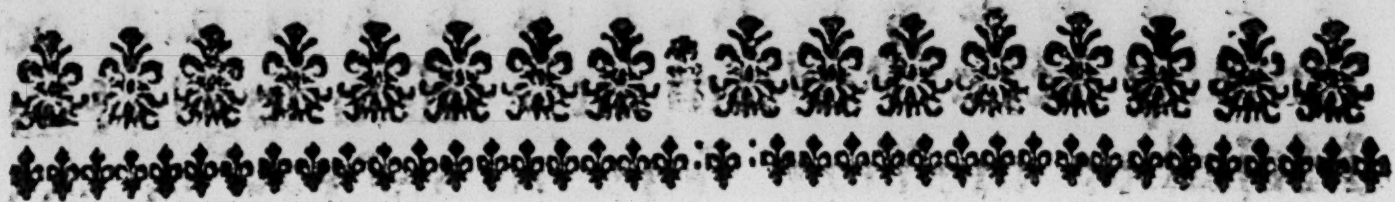
*Ordered by the Lords and Commons assembled in Par-  
liament, that this Declaration shall be forthwith  
printed and published.*

Io. Browne Cleric.  
Parliamentorum. 7

LONDON,  
Printed for John Wright, and are to be sold  
in Little Old-Baily.







*Die Fovis 5. Maii 1642.*



He Lords and Commons holding it necessary for the peace and safety of this Kingdome to settle the Militia thereof, did for that purpose prepare an Ordinance of PARLIAMENT, and withall humilitie did present the same to His Majesty for His Royall assent, Who notwithstanding the faithfull advice of His Parliament, and the severall reasons offered by them of the necessitie thereof, for the securing of his Majesties Person, and the peace and safety of his people, did refuse to give His consent, and thereupon they were necessitated, in discharge of the truest reposed in them as the representative body of the Kingdome to make an Ordinance by Authority of both Houses, to settle the Militia, warranted thereunto by the fundamentall Lawes of the Land.

His Majesty taking notice thereof, did by

A 2

severall

severall Messages invite them to settle the  
same by Act of Parliament, affirming in His  
Majesties message sent in answer to the  
Petition of both Houses presented to his  
Majesty at *Yorke*, *March. 26.* That he alwayes  
thought it necessary the same should bee set-  
led, and that he never denyed the thing, only  
denyed the way; and for the matter of it, took  
exceptions only to the preface, as a thing  
not standing with His honour to consent to,  
and that Himselfe was excluded in the exe-  
cution, and for a time unlimited: Whereupon  
the Lords and Commons being desirous to  
give His Majesty all satisfaction that might  
be, even to the least tittle of forme, and cir-  
cumstance; and when His Majesty was plea-  
sed to offer them a Bill ready drawn, did for  
no other cause than to manifest their hearty  
affection to comply with His Majesties de-  
sires and obtaine his consent, entertaine the  
same; and in the meane time no way decli-  
ning their Ordinance, and to expresse their  
earnest zeale to correspond with His Maje-  
sties desire (in all things that might consist  
with the peace and safety of the Kingdome,  
and the trust reposed in them) did passe that  
Bill

Bill, and therein omitted the preamble inserted before the Ordinance, limited the time to lesse than two yeares, and confined the Authority of the Lieutenants to these three particulars: namely Rebellion, Infurrection, and forraine Invasion, and returned the same to His Majesty for His royall assent. But all these expressions of affection and loyalty, all those desires and earnest endeavours to comply with His Majesty, hath (to their great griefe and sorrow) produced no better effect then an absolute denyall, even of that which His Majesty by His former Messages, as We conceive, had Promised; the advice of evill and wicked Counsels, receiving still more credit with Him, than that of His great Counsell of Parliament, in a matter of so high importance, that the safety of His Kingdome, and the peace of his people depends upon it. But now what must bee the exceptions to this Bill? not any sure, that was to the Ordinance; for a care was taken to give satisfaction in all these particulars; Then the exception was because that the disposing and execution thereof was referred to both Houses of Parliament, and His Majesty

Majestie excluded : and now that by the  
BILL, the power and execution is asser-  
tained, and reduced to particulars and the  
Law of the Realme made the rule thereof,  
His Majestie will not trust the persons.  
The power is too great, too unlimited to trust  
them with. But what is that power? Is it any  
other but in expresse termes to suppress re-  
bellion, Insurrection, and forraigne Invasion?  
And who are those persons? are they not  
such as were nominated by the great Councell  
of the Kingdome, and assented to by his Ma-  
jestie. And is it too great a power to trust  
those persons with the suppression of Rebel-  
lion, Insurrection, and forraigne Invasion?  
Surely the most wicked of them that advised  
His Majestie to this Answer cannot suggest,  
but that it is necessary for the safetie of His  
Majesties Royall Person and the peace of the  
Kingdome, such a power should bee put in  
some hands. And there is no pretence of ex-  
ception to the Persons. His Majestie for the  
space of above fiftene Yeares together,  
thought not a power far exceeding this to  
bee too great to intrust particular persons  
with, to whose will the Lives and Liberties  
of

of His People by Martiall Lawes were made  
subject, for such was the power given to Lord  
Lieutenants, and Deputie Lieutenants in  
every Countie of this Kingdome, and that  
without the consent of his people, or autho-  
rity of Law. But now in case of extreame  
necessity, upon the advice of both Houses of  
Parliament for no longer space then two  
yeares, a lesser power, and that for the  
safetie of King and people, is thought too  
great to trust particular persons with, though  
named by both Houses of Parliament, and  
approved of by his Majestie himselfe. And  
surely if there bee a necessitie to settle the Mi-  
litia (which his Majestie was pleased to con-  
fesse) the Persons cannot bee intrusted with  
lesse power than this to have it all effectuell.  
And the Presidents of former Ages when  
there hapned a necessitie to raise such a power,  
never straightned that power to a narrower  
compasse, witnesse the Commissions of Array  
in severall Kings Raignes, and often issued  
out by the Consent and Authority of Parlia-  
ment. The Lords and Commons therefore in-  
trusted with the safety of the Kingdome, and  
of peace of the people, (which they call God

to



to witnesse is their onely ayme) finding themselves denied these their so necessary; and just demands, and that they can never be discharged before God or Man if they should suffer the safety of the Kingdome and peace of the people to bee exposed to the malice of the malignant party at home, or the fury of enemies from abroad. And knowing no other way to encounter the imminent & approaching danger, but by putting the people into a fit posture of defence, doe resolve to put their said Ordinance in present execution, and doe require all persons in authority by vertue of the said Ordinance forthwith to put the same in execution, and all others to obey it, according to the fundamentall lawes of the Kingdome in such cases, as they tender the upholding of the true Protestant Religion, the safety of his Majesties person, and his Royall Posterity, the peace of the kingdome, and the being of this Commonwealth.

**FINIS.**

